RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 2nd December, 1986/
11 Agrahayana, 1908 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ILO views on drug and alcohol abuse

*401. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :†
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has expressed grave concern over the drug and alcohol abuse at the workplace by the workers;

(b) if so, how far this menace is prevalent in India according to ILO study; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ILO study does not contain any reference to India.

(c) The Ministry of Welfare as the nodal Ministry for all matters relating to drug and alcohol abuse, except enforcement, have taken a number of measures to counteract the problem by adopting an integrated, multi-dimensional, multi-media approach.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Sir, in his reply, the honourable Minister has said that the ILO study does not contain any reference to India. आई. एल. ओ. ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह कहा है कि :

> "The ILO deplored that many entrepreneurs, managements and unions adopted an ostrich-like approach concerning alcohol and drug abuse and that no official attempt is made to acknowledge that the problem exists."

यह तो ठीक है कि उनकी रिपोर्ट में ऐसा रेफरेन्स नहीं है। लेकिन यह रिपोर्ट पेपर्स में अक्सर आती है कि करोड़ों रुपये नहीं बल्कि अरबों रुपयों की ड्रग्स बाहर से यहां स्मगल करने की कोशिश की जाती है। ऐसा न होने देने के लिये एफर्ट्स किये जाते हैं यह तो ठीक है लेकिन इस बात का पता नहीं है कि कितने करोड़ या अरब रुपये की हशीश या और ड्रग्स स्मगल करके इस कन्ट्री के अन्दर आते हैं। कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि . . . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is not about smuggling. Please confine yourself to the main question.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैं यही पूछ रहा हूं कि कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि वे इन चीजों को यहां पर स्मगल करके हमारे वरकर्स को एडिक्ट करना चाहते हैं। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर आई. एल. ओ. ने इसकी स्टडी नहीं की तो क्या सरकार अपने तौर पर इसकी स्टडी करवाने की कोशिश करेगी?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question does not arise. The answer is that it does not make any reference to India. So, you put your second supplementary, please.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Now, Mr. Mahendra Prasad.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Sir, accidents on the roads and on the railways in India are a common feature. Many such accidents ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is it that you are asking ? Please look at Question No. 401.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Yes, Sir. I am coming to the question only. May I know what the percentage of such

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal.

accidents is which are caused by the drivers plying their vehicles under the influence of alcohol and drugs ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not relevant. Next Question, please. Question No. 401-A. Mr. Upendra.

Loss to ONGC due to high interest on loans

@ 401-A. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is incurring substantial losses on account of the loans it has raised for the Government in the international market;

(b) if so, the extent of the losses suffered by the ONGC during the last three years due to difference in interest paid by it on the loans incurred and that earned by it from the Government;

(c) what is the percentage of refinance and interest charges to the ONGC's cost of production; and

(d) whether Government propose to review its policy so that the ONGC does not suffer such losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Organisations like ONGC which have arge foreign exchange expenditure on capital and revenue accounts for meeting the cost of equipment services, interest payments etc. are necessarily required to meet a part of the foreign exchange needs hrough foreign currency borrowings. These oreign currency borrowings are resorted o at the most opportune times to take naximum advantage of favourable terms nd conditions in international financial nd capital markets.

The total foreign exchange requirements f ONGC and the foreign currency loans raised by ONGC in the last three years are as follows :—

(Rs. crores)

	Foreign exchange requirements	Foreign currency Loans
1983-84	1195	563
1984-85	1367	445
1985-86	1411	289

In other words, foreign currency borrowings of ONGC have been much less than their needs of foreign exchange. If in the process, certain temporary surpluses accrue to ONGC and other public sector agencies, the moneys are required to be kept temporarily in the Public Account rather than Commercial Banks subject to such general or special orders as may be issued from time to time. As such, there is no question of any loss to ONGC or others on account of interest differentials.

The percentage of interest charges to ONGC's cost of production varies from 7 to 10% depending upon the rates of interest and exchange prevailing at different points of time since many of the loans are at floating rate basis.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Sir, the honourable Minister has sidetracked the whole issue. My question did not relate to the loans secured by the ONGC for its own requirements. But it relates to the borrowings by the ONGC for the Government of India for general purposes. That he has conveniently sidetracked. Recently, the ONGC has entered the international market, the Euro-dollar market, for a loan of 500 million dollars and he has not indicated for what purpose this huge loan is required. This is supposed to be the biggest single loan, the largest single loan, raised by the ONGC in the international market so far. Why is such a huge loan being raised ?

Secondly, Sir, he has mentioned that the percentage of interest charges to the ONGC's cost of production varies from seven to ten per cent. But my information, Sir, is that it is as much as 42 per cent of the total cost of production. Will the

@ Previously Starred Question 382 transferred from the 1st December, 1986.